(b) As per the latest information in the Ministry of Steel, 214 investors have signed Memorandum of Understandings / Agreements with various State Governments to set up steel projects having approx capacity of 263.17 mtpa (approx) at proposed cost of Rupees 5,67,743.77 Crores approx.

(c) The issue of land acquisition and environmental clearance in respect of forest land for steel project involve Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) issues which is a subject to be dealt with by the concerned State Governments. The Government of India has no direct role to play on land acquisition issues.

(d) Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) to monitor and coordinate issues concerning major steel investments in the country. The Inter Ministerial Group functions under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel) with members from various Central Ministries / Departments, such as Railways, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Industrial Policy & Promotion, Mines, Environment & Forest and the concerned State Governments.

Setting up of steel plants

2162. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MoUs have been signed between Central / State Government for setting up of steel companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and MoU-wise;

(c) how many companies have actually set up steel plants as a result of MoU in the last three years; and

(d) the reasons for non-emergence of new steel capacities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) The details of MoUs signed alongwith the name of companies for setting up of iron and steel plants in mineral rich States Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh and the present status of projects, State-wise and project-wise are given in the Annexure (*See* Appendix 214, Annexure no. 12] as per the record of information available in the Ministry of Steel.

(d) Steel projects are captital and resource intensive and most of the major projects are going on at different stages of their progress.

Decline in Steel production

2163. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of steel has declined during last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a huge decline in the production and prices of steel due to economic recession; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last one year?